



Product Stewardship in Medical Facilities

Solutions for a Sustainable
Future

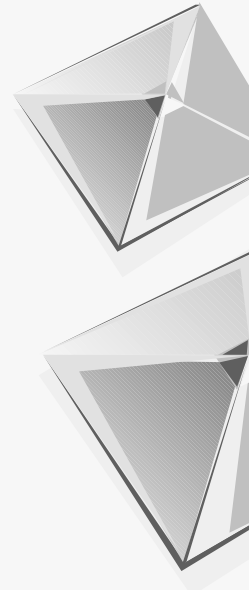
Viccy Salazar, US EPA Region 10
www.epa.gov/r10earth/productstewardship.htm



Plastics:

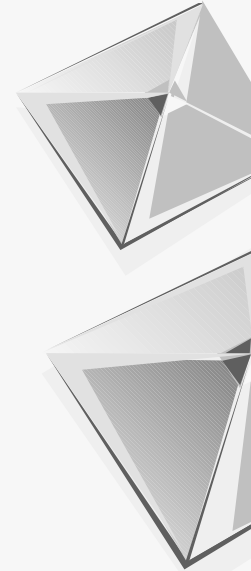
Why do we
use them?

What problems
do they create?



What is Product Stewardship

- ▲ Shared Product Responsibility between manufactures, suppliers, and hospitals for the environmental impacts of the products used.
- ▲ Focus on entire product system
- ▲ Managing the environmental impacts at all stages of the product life cycle
- ▲ Avoid end-of-life management
- ▲ Ability to make changes where most effective
- ▲ A complete paradigm shift



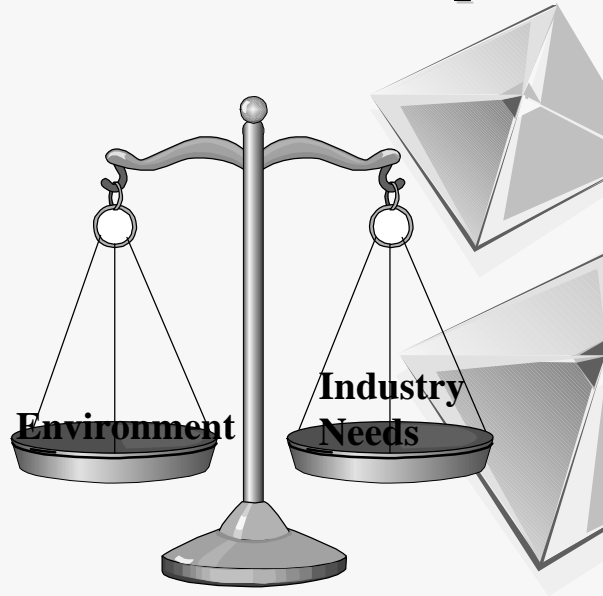
So, What is the Problem?

- ▲ Current management of resources and materials is inefficient;
- ▲ Little economic incentive to design more environmentally safe products;
- ▲ Costs of disposal are not born where they are created;
- ▲ Waste is expensive.



Strategies for Product Stewardship

- ▲ Take Back
- ▲ Design for Durability
- ▲ Product as Service
- ▲ Leasing
- ▲ Environmentally Sensitive materials and packaging
- ▲ Design for Recycling



Examples of Product Stewardship in Action

- ▲ Dupont/Ford Paint Partnership
 - Payment based on number of cars painted, not cans of paint used.
 - Reduction in paint use without reduction in quality.
- ▲ BMW Plastics Reduction
 - BMW reduced the number of plastics used and labeled all plastics for ease of recycling.



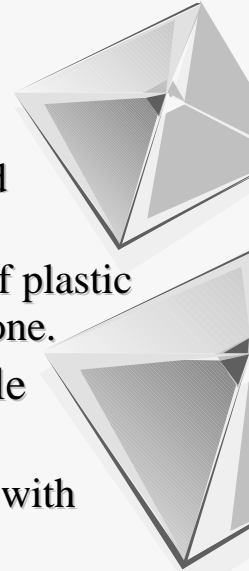
Examples of Product Stewardship in Action *(continued)*

▲ Xerox' Take Back

- ❑ Xerox encourages customers to return used copiers. They then recycle or reuse parts.
- ❑ Conserved more than 1.1 million pounds of plastic and 88 million pounds of metal in 1997 alone.

▲ Rochester Midland Corporation Lifecycle Management Program

- ❑ developed a new line of cleaning products with environment, health and safety in mind
- ❑ Partnered with building, cleaning service and tenant to manage lifecycle.



Examples of Product Stewardship in Action *(continued)*

▲ Interface Carpet Leasing Systems

- ❑ Retains ownership of the commercial carpet
- ❑ Charging a lease fee for installing and maintaining it, replacing worn portions and whole sections when necessary
- ❑ Recycles back into carpet when replaced

